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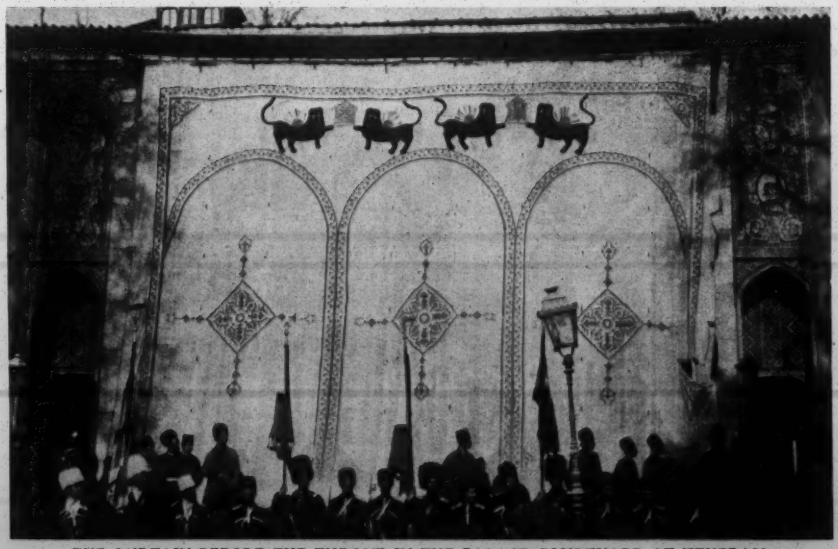

THE CURTAIN BEFORE THE THRONE IN THE PALACE COURTYARD AT TEHERAN

The Alabaster throne of the Shahs is under open skies.

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

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Palos: Starting Point for Columbus and Trans-Atlantic Fliers

CONFLICTING IDEAS of the place from which Columbus put off for his historic voyage of discovery to the New World have been raised by recent press dispatches in regard to the Spain-Argentina flight of Spanish airmen. The fliers announced that they would begin their trans-Atlantic hop from the exact spot from which Columbus' flagship put to sea. The dispatches were dated from both Huelva and Palos, Spain.

Port Dwindled to Insignificance

Fate selected Palos to be the starting point for one of the most momentous and significant journeys ever taken by land or sea. But then, as though more than enough had been done for one place, she soon turned her back upon it. The centuries that have passed since Columbus' day have not been kind to Palos. When the *Santa Maria*, the *Pinta* and the *Nina* put boldly out from Palos it was a reasonably important port, just far enough within the common, forked estuary of the Rio Tinto and the Rio Odiel to be protected from the swell of the Atlantic. But long ago the harbor became silted up, and now that which bears the famous name "Palos" is only a tiny, insignificant fishing village.

Palos is situated on the Rio Tinto arm of the estuary about ten miles from the sea. At about the same distance up the Odiel arm is Huelva, the rival which became the dominant port of the estuaries. As Palos went down, Huelva went up. A channel is kept open to its quays, and because of the great quantities of copper and sulphur ores that are shipped from it, it is surpassed in tonnage handled by only a few Spanish ports. In the neighborhood, on the two rivers, are the largest mines in Spain.

Rival Ran Away With Date Lines

Since Huelva is of the bustling present with its hotels and telegraph offices, while Palos is of the past, those participating in the recent airplane flight gathered at Huelva, although the start was actually made off Palos. Because of this situation, Huelva ran away with most of the date lines in the stories of the beginning of the flight.

There are other reminders of Columbus in this region than what is left of Palos. Opposite the junction point of the Odiel and the Tinto is La Rabida Monastery, partly in ruins, where Columbus received the first encouragement for his "wild" plans. The prior of the monastery, formerly the confessor to Queen Isabella, induced her to finance the voyage. On the river bank, near the monastery, stands a colossal statue of Columbus, looking off toward the ocean which he conquered.

In Historic Corner of Spain

Palos, even in the days of its importance, was really not the most logical place for beginning the ocean journey. Seville on the Guadalquiver River was the metropolis of southern Spain and the seat of the kings. All voyages of consequence, including that of Columbus, started from the river quays of that great city and the logical last port was San Lucar, at the mouth of the Guadalquiver, about 40 miles east of Palos. When the wealth of the New World was realized, and shiploads of bullion poured into Spain, Seville was given the monopoly of

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OVERLOOKING THE HOUSETOPS OF CADIZ

The lovely city is crowded into a small area, so that it has had to expand upward, after the manner of lower Manhattan Island.

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Teheran: Where a New Ruler Sits on the Peacock Throne

FOLLOWING the recent removal of the Kajar dynasty in Persia and the placing of a new Shah on the famous Peacock Throne, the country is showing a touch of modernism by conducting its first census. The first census in the United States was to fix the size of the House of Representatives, but that in Persia is to facilitate taxation.

Despite Persia's traditional conservatism in governmental affairs Teheran, its capital, is a city of kaleidoscopic contrasts. Visitors may enter through any one of its twelve beautiful gates, whose glazed tiles glisten in the sunlight, and find spread before them a dingy collection of mud houses rubbing elbows with palatial residences enclosing flower-filled gardens. A lumbering camel, Asiatic beast of burden since before the dawn of history, may draw aside to allow the passage of a high-powered motor car bearing a wealthy Persian on the way to his villa on the outskirts of the city.

Linked With "Arabian Nights"

Teheran has not always been the capital of Persia. Rhages or Rei, its predecessor, the ruins of which are nearby, was a bustling city of one and a half millions in the Middle Ages. As the birthplace of Harun al-Rashid, Caliph of Bagdad, the fifth and most renowned of the Abbassides, its name is forever linked with the "Arabian Nights."

This city, also called Rhagae, was destroyed by Jenghiz Khan and Timur.

Modern Teheran's position, seventy miles south of the Caspian Sea, commanding the highways of the extensive upland plateau and the entrance to the Elburz Passes, has made it the center of a considerable caravan trade, though it does not rank high as an industrial city. Its population is roughly estimated at 300,000 in winter, but in summer this number diminishes one-third. For, although the district lies in the approximate latitude of Cape Hatteras, and nine months of the year bring it cool nights and sunshiny days, the three months of summer are uncomfortably hot and dry.

The palace of the deposed Shah is located in the "Ark," or former citadel, in the middle of the city. Here is the Salaam Court, containing the large Takht-i-Khaneh, or Throne Room, where the Shah receives his people at his New Year's reception, three months and more after the Western World ushers in a new year. This reception formerly was a brilliant affair; the royal band played all through the ceremony, the court poet was much in evidence with the Shah's greetings for the new season, and the Shah himself was seated in a jeweled chair on a beautiful marble throne, which, however, should not be confused with the priceless Peacock Throne kept in the Treasure Vault.

World's Costliest "Furniture"

The Office of the Commandant of the Imperial Guards, the Apartments of the Grand Vizier and the Imperial Archives are separated from the main palace by a shady rose garden, but one's interest naturally centers in the Treasure Vault wherein are kept the Persian Crown jewels.

Nadir Shah, who was also known as Kuli Khan, was Shah of Persia from

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trade with America, and then San Lucar came into its own. Columbus put off from San Lucar on his third voyage. Magellan, too, began the circumnavigation of the world at San Lucar in 1519, and almost exactly three years later the only remaining ship of the dead leader completed its world-girdling trip at the same port. To-day San Lucar is the important port of entry for Seville.

The little region of Spain embracing Palos, the mouth of the Guadalquiver, and the adjacent country has played a major role in Spanish commerce and navigation. Following Seville, Cadiz became the receiving vault for the riches of the Indies. Jerez—mangled into "Sherry" by the English—still is one of the most important wine centers of Spain, and its product has long figured prominently in Spanish commerce. Before the days of the acceptance of Greenwich as the world's zero meridian, the meridian through San Fernando observatory near Cadiz was used by Spanish mariners in mapping the world of which they discovered so much.

Bulletin No. 1, March 15, 1926.

A PERSIAN SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Schools such as these are scattered through the shopping districts of Persian cities. They resemble shops with one side all open to the street. The teacher sits at one end with a long stick which he uses on any boy who stops studying aloud for a moment.

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San Antonio: Modern Metropolis With a Spanish Tang

A "JUNTA" of Mexicans—one of those unofficial councils that often precedes revolutionary activities in Latin America—was recently asserted to be sitting in San Antonio, Texas. Both American and Mexican eyes were therefore turned to this city, the largest American town near the Mexican border east of the Rockies, and always an important factor in Mexican-American relations.

San Antonio is an intimate mixture of old Spain and Mexico, and the hustling, bustling America of today. It began its life in 1716 as a tiny Spanish military settlement—"El Presidio de San Antonio de Bexar." But that leisurely name officially lost most of its trimmings when the town became an American community, and to many who have known it best—including O. Henry—it has taken on the unofficial cognomen, "Sanantone."

Losing Its Foreign Flavor

A hundred years ago San Antonio was almost entirely Spanish and Mexican. Fifty years ago it could be considered only half American. Then the railroads came to quicken its life, the rich "cow country" round about was developed, and a few far-sighted business men woke up to the fact that it was situated without competitors in the very center of a territory that would need unmeasured supplies. Since that time San Antonio has grown its tall buildings and factory chimneys like scores of its fellow American cities. Approaching the 200,000 mark, and with a greater population than that during the winter tourist season, it leads all other cities in Texas, though it is closely approached by Dallas and Houston. An observer set down suddenly on Houston street or Commerce street might easily imagine himself in Syracuse, Atlanta, Memphis, Dayton or any one of a dozen other cities of a similar size.

As it has grown San Antonio has lost most of its exotic flavor; but touches of old Spain and Mexico are still to be found if one searches for them. A few of the narrow, winding streets of the old days are left with sidewalks on which two pedestrians can hardly pass. Iron-barred windows are to be seen behind which coy senoritas have stood as Spanish or Mexican youths "played the bear." Grated doors and gates in yard-thick walls of the mission days hint at mystery. Those who like the peppery dishes of Latin America may find them of a quality not equaled outside the City of Mexico and a few of the larger cities of the southern republic.

The Alamo—Shrine of Texas

And in the center of the town, strolling down ordinary business streets, one comes suddenly upon the historic Alamo, the "Thermopylae of America." There in Texas' war for independence from Mexico, 179 American frontiersmen held off for ten days a Mexican army of 6,000 until the last defender was killed. It is a battered old building raised by the hands of Franciscan monks 207 years ago as an outpost of the Christian religion among the Indians. Because of the part it played in their war of independence it is a sacred shrine to all Texans.

A string of four other missions extending for fifteen or twenty miles down the San Antonio river represented, with the Alamo and the Presidio and the village of San Antonio, all that there was of civilization in that part of Texas

1736 to 1747. Shortly after he was crowned he invaded India, laid waste to the country and sacked Delhi. It was he who laid down his bare sword as a sign that the massacre might begin and refused to lift it again until thousands of the inhabitants had been murdered. And he it was who brought the Peacock Throne to Teheran where it has been since 1739.

This gorgeous chair of state is incrusted with thousands of precious jewels; rubies, diamonds, emeralds and so many others that one is almost blinded by its sparkling splendor. Emblazoned on the back is the large peacock from which the throne takes its name, with its tail spread out in a magnificence no living peacock ever attained. Taken as one piece of "furniture," the Peacock Throne might easily be called the most expensive in the world, for it is valued at thirty millions of dollars!

Where East Meets West

Keeping it company is the sword of Timur, the Tatar, which doubtless accompanied him on his victorious march through Persia and Syria as far as the frontier of Egypt, in those bloodthirsty days when invasion and conquest were the lifelong ambitions of every great man. In the Treasure Vault also is a huge terrestial globe of gold, weighing eighty pounds, set with 51,366 jewels, and nearby is the diamond known as the Dary-i-Nur or "Sea of Light," weighing 186 carats, which Nadir Shah did not overlook at Delhi.

Teheran might well be called the meeting place of East and West, for in the southern portion of the city, tucked away behind the pale pink and blue plaster walls, may be found the majority of the natives with their bazaars and their own circles of life hardly touched since the early years. In the northern part the Western influence is seen, felt and heard in the shape of well-graded streets, electric lights, movies, European shops, hotels, restaurants and even a street car line. The airplane has made its way to Teheran, the Drill Square north of the central square sharing honors as an aviation field and a football gridiron.

Persia is fast adopting modern ways. The new ruler, who is referred to in a dispatch from Teheran as King Pahlavia Reza Khan, has released all political prisoners and issued a decree reducing the price of bread.

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Hué: Where Both Living and Dead Emperors Are Glorified

HUÉ, CAPITAL of Annam, where an emperor recently died and another was crowned, may be considered the heart, though not the metropolis, of French Indo-China.

Annam is less completely under French control, officially, than any of the other states with which it is associated in the territorial group known as French Indo-China, but Annam and the twelve million people of Annamese blood really constitute the chief factor in this region of French influence. In few places are the old forms of oriental magnificence maintained as completely as in the imperial establishment at Hué. Until recently the palace was forbidden ground, and it is still far from easy to obtain access.

Like Fairy Palace

Inside the palace walls are a richness and an elaborateness seldom encountered outside fairy tales and the settings of extravagant stage presentations. There are picturesque gardens; paved courts, where on occasion the ten thousand mandarins of Annam strike their foreheads in unison on the ground before the emperor; dim corridors of countless columns with their huge perfume burners sending up continual clouds of incense; and exquisite rooms of intricately wrought ceramics and gold and silver. Opening into the emperor's state rooms is the great Golden Door, through which, in addition to the sovereign, only the extraordinary Ambassadors may pass.

Lavish festivals and displays take place within this fairyland of luxury. The most charming and characteristic, perhaps, are the children's ballets, in which scores of dainty, costumed youngsters go through elaborate steps and postures with bright fans in their hands and a lighted, colored lantern attached to each youthful shoulder.

Tropical Surroundings

Outside the palace enclosure Hué is less appealing. The "metropolitan area" of the city is in large part a collection of native villages clustered in the shadow of the great palace-citadel walls. Across the river is the French Residency with its Gallic-western atmosphere. For a long time Hué was little known, and as the seat of an important country, its size was exaggerated. Its population is only about 60,000.

The town is in a tropical region in a latitude corresponding to that of the southern extremity of Mexico. It lies near the mid-point of the long double-curving coast of French Indo-China, a few miles from the sea on the Hué River. Built on a flat, the city itself has little beauty of form or setting, but it would be difficult to find in the Tropics more beautiful environs than it possesses. Only a few miles away rise the mountains from which the Hué River flows, and even closer are lower wooded hills and valleys. Numerous villages are all but hidden in a mantle of green: palms, bamboos, and scores of tropical vines and shrubs. Carefully kept paddy fields alternate with wild regions of underbrush, and scattered about the countryside are innumerable graceful pagodas.

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200 years ago. Automobile busses now whisk tourists over the "mission loop" and they clamber over the crumbling walls and halt over the liquid Spanish names—Purisima Conception, San Jose, San Francisco de la Espada, and San Juan Capistrano.

River Hidden by Business Buildings

A visitor to San Antonio could hardly imagine destruction from the San Antonio river. but it has had its devastating floods. He might even maintain that the city has no river at all, only a creek. In the forest of modern business buildings the river is almost as effectively hidden as is the Genesee in Rochester. The San Antonio rises practically within the city limits, gushing full-grown from rocky fountains. Its narrow bed has been paved, and it meanders sluggishly through the city for all the world like a medium-sized irrigation ditch. In a stroll through the business district one will cross the little stream half a dozen times in going less than a score of blocks.

San Antonio's little river has always added a picturesque touch to the city. Throughout the business district the banks of the wall-confined stream have been parked, and groups pause constantly on the many little bridges to admire the sloping, close-cropped lawns set with flower beds and shaded by tall, deep green clumps of banana trees and other semitropical plants.

Bulletin No. 3, March 15, 1926.

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Rhodes: Italy's Near Eastern Base

IF ANTHING should come of the suggestion in European diplomatic circles that Great Britain may agree to allow Italy a free hand in the Adalia region of Asia Minor, the near-by island of Rhodes, already in Italy's possession, would be the logical base of operations.

Mention Rhodes and immediately the average hearer thinks of the Colossus. What could be better evidence that one of the greatest of modern industries, advertising, had its roots in antiquity? For this "civic" monument of Rhodes stood only 56 years, yet it advertised the city so well that it has identified Rhodes for the twenty centuries since it fell.

At Marine Cross-roads

One way of orienting Rhodes geographically is to describe it as the largest of the Dodecanese Islands. It is the most eastward of the great group of isles and islets that peppers the Aegean Sea. Farther eastward in the Mediterranean lie only tiny coastal islets, like Kastelorizo, and the one big island, Cyprus. Of all the islands east of the Grecian peninsula only Cyprus and Crete exceed Rhodes in size.

Rhodes was in the favored location of its day, at the crossing of the marine highways between Byzantium, Greece and Italy on the one hand; and on the other, Egypt, southeastern Asia Minor, and Syria, gateway to the East. Inevitably a great maritime and commercial community grew up on Rhodes; it took the torch of Mediterranean commerce from Phoenicia to pass it on later to Byzantium, Rome, Genoa and Venice. It seems natural enough to find old Greek and Roman historians referring literally to the Rhodes of the third and second centuries before Christ as "the distributing center" of the Levant. It would hardly be surprising in view of this familiar phraseology to find "letterheads" of the Rhodian Chamber of Commerce of that day with the truthful-enough slogan: "Rhodes' trade territory is the world." Rhodes was a world center in still another way, for in the days of Ptolemy the geographer, it was taken as the initial point for longitude, as Greenwich is to-day.

As a result of Rhodes' dominant commercial position, its laws and coinage were the standards of their day throughout the Mediterranean. The Rhodians, too, were colonizers and planted their stations on the shores of Asia Minor, Africa, Greece, Italy and even Spain.

Rebuilt By Ancient Relief Fund

Incident after incident crops up in Rhodian history to tie Rhodes to the ways of to-day. Like Washington, the city of Rhodes was laid out, on its establishment in 408 B. C., according to an ordered plan, by an architectural engineer—Hippodamus of Miletus. The new city was given a sort of "commission form" of government consisting of a group of six executives. When Rhodes was destroyed by earthquake in 227 B. C., it received the practical sympathy of its world as Tokyo did in 1923; relief funds were sent from all the Hellenic states to repair the damage. Even the Great Colossus was a "victory statue," made of enemy catapults and other war engines—the gun-metal of the day.

Perhaps the most picturesque era in Rhodes' history was from 1309 to 1522,

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Kingly Tombs Masterpieces of Landscaping

The most remarkable feature of Hué are famous tombs of the kings, which lie in the charming pine and banyan-covered valleys and hills a few miles from the city—true cities of the dead, far more attractive in setting than that of the living. For each departed ruler of the past several centuries a large area has been developed as a resting place and memorial for himself, his wives, children and servants. These developed areas are in two parts. One is a beautiful group of gardens, lakes, summer houses and a memorial hall. The latter is fitted with the furniture from the departed emperor's apartments. The second part is a vast enclosure nearby, usually a series of terraces above the gardens, in some unmarked spot of which the body of the emperor lies. The reigning emperor visits each of these garden-tombs of his ancestors annually and makes obeisance to their spirits.

The notable structures and gardens extend from the end of the 18th century to the present. The earlier of these are exceedingly elaborate and have much in them to remind one of Fontainebleau and Versailles. It is likely that their builders were influenced by French officers then in the employ of the Annamese. The later tombs are of native architecture. Both types are striking and artistic, and make up one of the most beautiful groups of royal tombs in the world.

Bulletin, No. 4, March 15, 1926.

THE TOWER OF ST. NICHOLAS AT RHODES, GUARDING THE ENTRANCE TO THE INNER HARBOR

This fort was built by the Knights of Rhodes in 1464, and, although frequently made the principal object of attack, it was never captured.

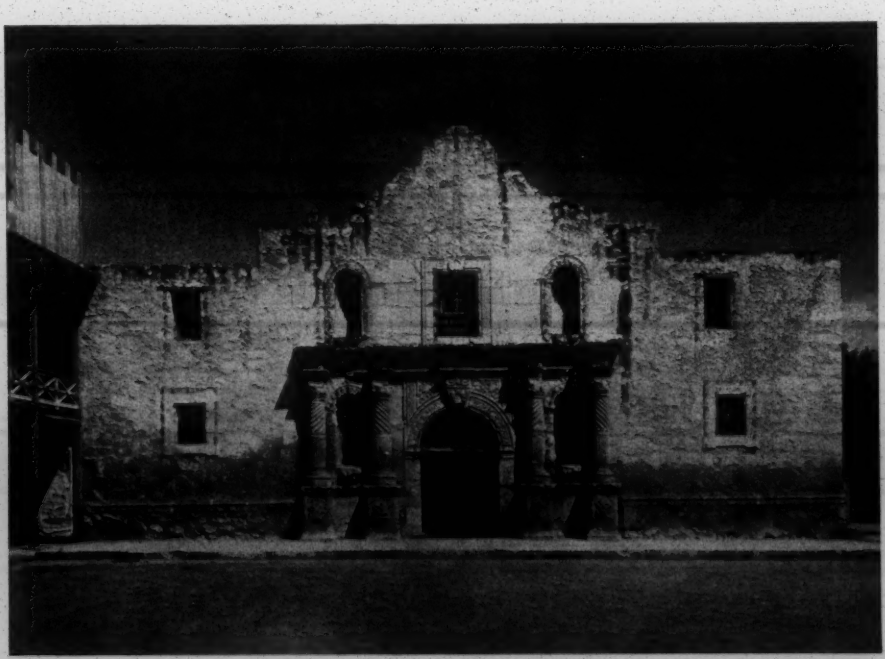
when it was the stronghold of the crusading Knights of St. John and the bulwark of Christendom against the Moslems. The old Greek city had practically disappeared when the Knights came and they built anew: great moats and walls, bastions and towers, and staunch stone dwellings. They evacuated the city to the Turks in 1522, but the deep marks their two centuries of occupancy left remain to-day. It is doubtful if in all Europe is to be found a more perfect example of a European fortified city of the 15th Century than is to be seen in Rhodes, geographically and climatically the quintessence of the Near East.

Junk Man Got Colossus

In the city's main thoroughfare, the Street of the Knights, are the same fine old windows, even if most of them are disfigured by superimposed lattices to shield harem ladies from unauthorized view. Built into the walls of the old knights' residences are the coats-of-arms of some of the most famous noble families of Europe.

No trace of Rhodes' famous Colossus remains to-day. This bronze statue, more than a hundred feet high, which ranked as one of the seven wonders of the world, was toppled over by an earthquake in 224 B. C. The pieces lay where they had fallen for nearly 900 years when a more ignominious fate overtook them. They were sold to a junk dealer.

Bulletin No. 5, March 15, 1926.



THE ALAMO, "THE TEXAS THERMOPYLAE"

In this Spanish mission, early outpost of Christian civilization in the Southwest, 179 Americans held off for ten days a Mexican army of 6,000, until the last defender was killed.